

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of April 25, 2006**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Thomas McCarney, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Libby Hambleton, Richard Sutor, and James Wilson. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard, Chuck Underhill (Vermont Public Power Supply Authority), and Everett Greenslit.

Chair McCarney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):** None.

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **April 11, 2006 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the minutes. One amendment, part V, a, line 2, delete the word "on." **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

b. **Approval of Bills**

1. **Warrant #21-06.** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Sutor, to approve Warrant #21-06 in the amount of \$56,189.70. One question on page two, last item an "altimeter" for the sweeper. This was clarified to mean an alternator. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- c. **Approval of 2006 Village Meeting Warning.** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the warning. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- d. **Capital Equipment Note (Village Highway Hot Mix Patching Machine): \$15,000 at 4.05% interest.** Motion by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Sutor, to approve the note, adopt the resolution, and sign the non-arbitrage certificate. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- e. **Northfield Electric Department Upgrades (Chuck Underhill, VPPSA).** Mr. Underhill discussed the possible upgrade that Norwich University has requested. He has reviewed the information to date and is offering his opinion. He believes that a 50-50 split will be approved by the Public Service Board. There are many aspects that will be beneficial for Northfield. Norwich University would then be allowed to continue with their upgrades. This upgrade would force Northfield to bring some items up to current standards. Norwich accounts for approximately 20% of usage. The King Street substations transformers have used approximately 80% of their depreciation. This is a regulated accounting practice that is based on, but not equal to, the expected service life. Green Mountain Power has conducted a study that was paid for by Norwich University. Mr. Underhill reviewed the study and felt that they were fair, open, and honest in their review. This would also increase our backup capability. Manager Allard will have numbers that will affect the cost factors and will provide this to the Board. Mr. Underhill reminded the Board that this is a long-term project and that VPPSA would be willing to work with Northfield or Norwich University to assist with anything needed.

- f. **Parking Issues.** Manager Allard presented an update. Chief Shaw would like an opportunity to review the Village parking ordinances. Manager Allard did send a letter to Norwich University, as she was directed by the Selectboard last evening. Chair McCarney would like to wait until Chief Shaw gets back to the Board with his findings and make a recommendation. Chair McCarney would like to see some alternatives other than putting in more ordinances.

IV. REPORTS

a. Village Manager

- 1. **Electric Rate Increase.** At the last meeting, Manager Allard reported that we expected a 7.17% increase; we will be looking at a 6.76% increase.
- 2. **Safe Routes to School Program.** Dubois & King did a bicycle and pedestrian study some time ago. There now are a highway enhancement program and a “safe routes to school” program that could give us funds to put in sidewalks. This would require a 20% match from the Village and Town if we were to get the grants. The Village, Town, and School boards would be working together on this. The Board agreed that the Manager could pursue this. The Manager will report back to the Board before committing to a project.

b. Committee Reports

- 1. **Inter-Local Agreement Committee.** There was a meeting of the committee last week and there were minutes included in the packets. There was no message to be sent back to the Board at this time, only that there is much support in protecting the wellfield.

c. Miscellaneous.

There was nothing additional from the Board.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled):

- a. **Everett Greenslit: Electric Rate Increase.** Mr. Greenslit felt that the Board's statement that other Municipals were facing double digit increases was unfair and misleading. He agrees that Burlington and GMP were facing such increases but could not find any record of one of the VPPSA members facing such an increase. Trustee Suitor stated that there were others that were considering a larger increase. Trustee Suitor will provide a spreadsheet to the Board with the comparison of rate increases (this is public information, for others involved). Mr. Greenslit also submitted two requests for documents.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled meeting.